Book Reviews

The Doctor on the Stage: Medicine and Medical Men in Seventeenth Century England, by Herbert Silvette, ed. by Francelia Butler, Knoxville, University of Tennessee Press, 1967, pp. viii, 290, \$7.50.

This volume is the fruit of Dr. Silvette's leisure reading of about 500 plays of the Elizabethan and Jacobean period, yielding a rich harvest of quotations on medical and paramedical topics, arranged in chapters under main subject headings. With such a nucleus, this could have been an important addition to the history of medicine. but the selected extracts, made some thirty or more years ago, are presented by an editor who gives little evidence of familiarity with all that has been written and published on the subject since that time. Nevertheless, the book is very well produced and offers a most useful array of relevant literary quotations for those who may be delving more deeply into the medical and scientific ideas and practices of the period.

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